

ART. XII.—*Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence.* By John Sanderson ; vols. I. and II. Philadelphia.

WE feel it a kind of national duty to recommend to our readers any publication, of respectable claims, which has for its end to commemorate the great events in our history. To put in the most striking and impressive form, the record of some of those great actions, which have signalized our short political career, is of itself a praiseworthy object, and we do not feel ourselves called upon to enforce the rules of literary taste on publications of this nature, which are not sent forth as specimens of literary skill. We have now before us the two first numbers or volumes of the work of Mr Sanderson on the signers of the declaration of independence. They contain five lives;—those of Hancock, Franklin, Wythe, Hopkinson, and Paine. These are preceded by an introduction, which fills about two thirds of the first volume, and is intended as a historical memoir of the colonies in succession. It may be doubted, if by this arrangement the unity of the biographical plan, in itself well conceived, is not unnecessarily violated. Honesty also compels us to say, notwithstanding the author's apology in the outset, that this portion of the work is too long and too diffuse, the reasoning not very original, and the relation laboring occasionally under the vital disease of a barrenness of facts. There is also, we must be pardoned for saying, in point of mere literary execution, much false taste of every kind, in this part of the book. The arrangement of the subject is a division of the history of the colonies, into four parts. The character of the colonists, their civil institutions and political relations with England, the wars which preceded the revolution, and the immediate causes which produced it, occupy each a chapter. The first chapter includes a view of the religious, literary, and moral character of our ancestors. Some just and clear views of the opinions entertained by the colonists on the subject of their relation to Great Britain, are comprised in the second division, though certainly not improved by the rhetoric, in which they are conveyed. The Indian wars in New England, Virginia, and North Carolina, of the seventeenth century, the defeat of Braddock, the capture of Louisbourg and Quebec, are described with some spirit in the third;

and finally, in the fourth, the measures of the British Parliament of 1773 and 1774, and the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill, introduce the declaration of independence, and close the Introduction.

In the preface to this work the author alludes to an objection occurring to the plan, in the following words : ' By attempting to exhibit so numerous a combination of contemporary statesmen, engaged in the same transactions and enterprises, and in a corporate capacity, he is circumscribed in prospect, confined to a uniformity of scenery, and induced almost unavoidably into tedious and frequent repetitions.' The justice of this remark is apparent in the progress of the work. After reading the sketch of the events of the 5th of March, &c. in the introduction, we are immediately presented with another account of the same occurrences, in the life of Governor Hancock. This portion of the biography, therefore, though it could hardly be spared in its connexion, might have led the author perhaps to doubt the expediency of so long an introduction. Much is also said of Samuel Adams in this article, which, of course, must be repeated in that devoted to him. On the occasion of the anniversary of the 'Boston massacre,' we find the following among the extracts from Governor Hancock's oration, which certainly when considered as spoken in a place garrisoned by the very troops alluded to, is exceedingly bold and impressive.

'I have, from the earliest recollections of youth, rejoiced in the felicity of my fellow men, and have considered it as the indispensable duty of every member of society to promote, as far as in him lies, the prosperity of every individual of his species, but more especially of the community to which he belongs ; and also, as a faithful subject of the state, to use his utmost endeavors to detect and defeat every traitorous plot, which its enemies may devise for its destruction.'

'Some boast of being friends to government ; I am a friend to righteous government, to a government founded upon the principles of reason and justice ; but I glory in publicly avowing my eternal enmity to tyranny ; and here suffer me to ask what tenderness, what regard, have the rulers of Great Britain manifested in their late transactions, for the security of the persons or property of the inhabitants of these colonies ? Or rather, what have they omitted doing to destroy that security ? They have usurped the right of ruling us, in all cases whatever, by arbitrary laws ; they have exercised this pretended right, by imposing a tax upon

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us without our consent; and, lest we should show some reluctance at parting with our property, their fleets and armies are sent to enforce their mad and tyrannical pretensions. The town of Boston, ever faithful to the British crown, has been invested by a British fleet, the troops of George III. have crossed the Atlantic, not to engage an enemy, but to assist a band of traitors in trampling on the rights and liberties of his most loyal subjects; those rights and liberties, which, as a father, he ought ever to regard, and, as a king, he is bound in honor to defend from violations, even at the risk of his own life.'—

'But I gladly quit the theme of death,—I would not dwell too long upon the horrid effects, which have already followed from quartering regular troops in this town; let our misfortunes instruct posterity to guard against these evils. Standing armies are *sometimes* (I would by no means say generally, much less universally) composed of persons, who have rendered themselves unfit to live in civil society; who are equally indifferent to the glory of a George or a Louis; who, for the addition of one penny a day to their wages, would desert from the christian cross, and fight under the crescent of the Turkish sultan; from such men as these what has not a state to fear? With such as these, usurping Cæsar passed the Rubicon. With such as these he humbled mighty Rome, and forced the mistress of the world to own a master in a traitor. *These are the men, whom sceptered robbers now employ to frustrate the designs of God, and render vain the bounties which his gracious hand pours indiscriminately upon his creatures.*' pp. 12—17.

In the 'character' of Governor Hancock too much and too frequent qualification seems to be employed in giving him the praise due to his liberality and patriotism. The writer indeed appears to entertain a just veneration for his virtues, but to think it necessary, perhaps, in point of historical accuracy, to allude pretty frequently to the various opinions entertained of Governor Hancock's merit by his contemporaries. It is, however, too well known how entirely 'censure is the tax paid for eminence,' to need that such circumstances as the current, popular dissensions of the day should be minutely examined, in regard to their effect on the reputation of men of worth. The various authorities of contemporaries are indeed the most valuable elements of biography in many points of fact, but when the vague opposition of party is alone in question, little necessity exists of combatting it, in the case of such men as Governor Hancock, and at this distance of time. The following are extracts from the close of this article :

‘These are but few of the many particulars I might enumerate, did the subject require a further illustration: for there are, indeed, few lives, either ancient or modern, that afford, of disinterested generosity, more frequent and illustrious examples. Charity was the common business of his life. From his private benevolence a thousand families received their daily bread; and there is, perhaps, no individual mentioned in history, who has expended a more ample fortune in promoting the liberties of his country.—Of this element of his character, as it is perhaps the most godlike virtue of human nature, a few examples may be permitted in its illustration.

‘Previous to the demise of his paternal uncle, whom I have already mentioned as his patron and benefactor, the hall of the university had been destroyed by fire. The deceased, it was said, had expressed the intention of leaving five hundred pounds for the reparation of its library. No such appropriation was, however, made by his will; yet the sum was paid without hesitation by his heir.

‘The salary allowed by the constitution to the chief magistrate of the commonwealth of Massachusetts had occupied, for several years, the debates of the legislature. It was declared to be exorbitant, and was enumerated amongst the various grievances that had occasioned riot and insurrection in the state. An act for its reduction from eleven to eight hundred pounds had passed both houses of the legislature, but was negatived by the governor; and the subject being resumed under the administration of Mr Hancock, he intercepted all farther discussion of it, by a voluntary remission of the sum.

‘In 1775 it was proposed by the American officers who carried on the siege of Boston, that they might procure the expulsion of the enemy, to bombard or destroy the town. The entire wealth of Mr Hancock was exposed, by the execution of this enterprise, to inevitable ruin; and whilst he felt for the sufferings of others with a very generous compassion, he required that no regard to his personal interests should obstruct the operations of the army.’ pp. 38—40.

The life of Franklin begins the second volume, and of course must suffer from comparison with the delightful memoir of the early years of his life, by himself. It is well known that the first editions of this charming biography were retranslations from the French to the English. Nothing but the great simplicity and beauty of Franklin’s style could have preserved, under similar circumstances, a manner so attractive as that of the little portion of his autobiography originally thus published.

Some curious anecdotes are added in the memoir now before us, from his works as published by his grandson, and other sources. From these we extract the following as interesting :

‘ On the first of January 1775, lord Chatham introduced in the house of lords, his celebrated plan of conciliation, on the subject of which he had sought with Franklin frequent and public interviews. He professed great esteem for his character, and in the affairs of America, the highest deference for his advice and opinions. “ I pay you these visits,” said he, “ that I may rectify my judgment by yours, as men do their watches by a regulator.” On the present occasion he led him by the arm into the house of lords, which was frequented by a very numerous crowd of spectators. This distinguished familiarity of a man, who held the very highest rank amongst the English nobility, and who was not less a favorite of nature than of fortune, drew upon him a particular and favorable attention ; which, joined to the countenance and approbation he had received from many other distinguished members of the parliament, not a little inflamed the animosities which the ministerial faction had already entertained towards him ; perceiving that he had not only resisted their seductions, but had risen into reputation under the very efforts made to depress him.

‘ Lord Chatham having explained and supported his motion, was followed by lord Sandwich, who, in the course of a very passionate harangue, declared that this motion of Chatham’s was disgraceful to his name, and should be rejected with contempt ; that he did not believe it to be the production of any British peer ; and added, turning towards Franklin, who leaned upon the bar, “ I fancy I have in my eye the person who drew it up,—one of the bitterest and most mischievous enemies that this country has ever known.” Under this allusion, so severe and offensive, although it drew upon him the observation of the whole assembly, Franklin remained, as if unconscious of the application, with a composed aspect ; or to use his own expression in relating this story, “ as if his countenance had been made of wood.” Lord Chatham replied, that were he the first minister of the country, he should not be ashamed to “ call publicly to his assistance, a person so eminently acquainted with American affairs, as the gentleman alluded to, and so ungenerously reflected on ; one,” he added, “ whom all Europe holds in the highest estimation for his knowledge and wisdom ; whom she ranks with her Boyles and her Newtons ; who is an honor, not to the English nation only, but to human nature.” ’ pp. 91—93.

The following account of Dr Franklin’s emotions at the beginning of the civil war, with all its afflicting events, it is grateful

to record. It is obvious that, however the importance of transactions in the course of political contests, like the American war, may vary, an intense interest must be felt at their first disclosure. In this instance, too, the mournful and cruel interest attached to the separation of the social ties of a vast community, and to the substitution of violence and bloodshed, for protection and obedience, is, by the nature of the case, stronger at the commencement of hostilities. We are told that the mercies of the winds and waves in a tempest are like those of brothers in a civil war, and it is dreadful to observe how much more fatal and remorseless are the cruelties exercised, while the parties in the contest still bear the names of 'rebellion' and 'authority.' Equal nations, fair enemies, great public rivals fight with mercy, and conquer with courtesy, but woe to the weak and helpless, when a mother country is moved to extend her parental correction to an unruly province, and chasteneth whom she *loveth*.

"It is probable," says Dr Priestley in his memoirs, "that no man now living was better acquainted with Dr Franklin and his sentiments on all subjects of importance, than myself for several years of the American war. He took every method in his power to prevent a rupture between the colonies and the mother country. He dreaded the war, and often said that if the differences should come to an open rupture, it would be a war of ten years. That the issue would be favorable to America, he never doubted. The English, he used to say, may take all our great towns, but that will not give them possession of the country. By many persons Franklin was considered so callous, that the prospect of all the horrors of a civil war would not affect him. This was far from being the case. A great part of the last day that he passed in England, we spent alone together. He was looking over a number of American newspapers, directing me what to extract for the English ones; and in reading them he was frequently not able to proceed, *for the tears literally running down his cheeks.*" p. 96.

We must close our extracts from Franklin's life by the following two anecdotes; the first an instance of his coolness and humor, and the last amusing from the contrast of character displayed:

'Among the ambassadors of other countries, then residing at Paris, he supported, in the same spirit, the dignity of his station and character; and in his intercourse of visits with them suffered

no neglect of any of the punctilios of honor and ceremony, which are observed towards each other by the ministers of independent nations. When the Russian ambassador, whose card being left at *his* door, had occasioned a return of the supposed civility, betrayed much alarm at the accident, Franklin, with his usual composure, observed that he perceived no cause of embarrassment : "Prince Bariatinski has but to erase my name out of his book of visits received, and *I will burn his card.*" p. 116.

'He visited assiduously the French Academy, where he was hailed at all times with the most respectful homage, and where he enlarged the circle of his extensive and honorable acquaintance. It was here that occurred, at a numerous and splendid meeting of this assembly, his well known rencontre with Voltaire, who, like himself, had approached the last scene of a long and eventful life, and who, from the extraordinary admiration which his writings had excited amongst his countrymen, was now received, after an absence of twenty seven years from his native city, with the most lavish profusion of honors. The meeting of two men, born in regions of the globe so remote, and who in their different offices had exercised so powerful an influence upon mankind ; of men so respectable by their age, as well as by their transcendent genius, and the occupations of their lives, was viewed with sentiments of tenderness and admiration. At their meeting, they embraced each other affectionately, as ancient friends after a long absence, and were hailed by the repeated acclamations of the assembly. "It is Solon," said some one in the crowd, "in the arms of Sophocles." It is related that at one of these meetings, Franklin, leading by the hand his grandson, and presenting him to Voltaire, asked his benediction ; and that the latter, in placing his hands on the head of the youth, with patriarchal solemnity, pronounced aloud, in English, "*God and liberty,*" adding, "this is the only device that becomes the grandson of the great Franklin." p. 130.

The life of George Wythe follows that of Franklin. This is a short memoir, the materials for the biography not having been found very abundant. Mr Wythe began the study of the law at the age of thirty, and was a member of the house of burgesses of Virginia in 1764. He drew the remonstrance to the British house of commons, which followed their resolutions in introduction to the Stamp Act. He appears, however, to have opposed, in conjunction with Peyton Randolph and others, the famous resolutions of Patrick Henry, on the ground of the substance of their contents having been urged in the former memorials. In 1776, Mr Wythe was appointed a com-

mittee with Mr Jefferson and others, to revise the laws of the state, and prepare bills for reenacting them, with the alterations made necessary by the independence of the state. This labor was effected by Messrs Jefferson, Pendleton, and Wythe, and in 1779, 'one hundred and twenty-six bills were prepared and reported to the general assembly.' 'Of this extensive work of legislation,' having among its objects to abolish the law of primogeniture, 'to define with precision the rules by which aliens should become citizens, and citizens make themselves aliens;' 'to establish religious freedom on the broadest bottom,' 'to emancipate all slaves, born after passing the act,' 'to proportion crimes and punishments according to a scale submitted,' to diffuse knowledge more generally by means of public schools, Wythe executed the revision of those laws, which had been enacted during the period commencing with the revolution in England, and ending with the establishment of the new government here, except the acts for regulating descents, for religious freedom, and for proportioning crimes and punishments, which were part of the labors of Mr Jefferson.

Mr Wythe was nominated in 1777, one of the three judges of the high court of chancery of Virginia, and on a new arrangement of that court, was appointed sole chancellor, in which situation he remained more than twenty years.

His death is a rare, we might venture to say, a solitary instance in our country of the occurrence in real life of those horrible crimes, which turn civilization into shame, in contrast with savage barbarity.

'His long life of public usefulness was closed, in exhibiting an additional proof of fervent devotion to the interests of the community. Tortured on the bed of death, with agonies produced by poison, taken in some portion of his aliment, he was immersed in the study of cases, yet pending in his court; regretting, as long as his senses continued, the delay and consequent expense which would be incurred by the parties, should his illness prove fatal. He died in the midst of this benevolent anxiety, on the 8th of June, 1806, in the eighty-first year of his age.

'In his death, Virginia mourned one of her most favoured sons; but the cause of his sudden loss spread an additional gloom over the darkness of her grief. No doubt remained of his death being produced by violence, and suspicion fell upon one, who, if guilty, would have added the blackest ingratitude, to the most detestable of crimes.

“By his last will he bequeaths a great part of his property in trust to support his three freed negroes, a woman, a man, and a boy, during their lives; after several legacies, particularly one, “of his books and philosophical apparatus, to his valued friend, Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States,” the remainder of his estate is devised to George Wythe Sweney, the grandson of his sister.

“During the life-time of Wythe, his freed man died, and by a codicil to his will, the legacy to the freed boy is increased, with a provision, that if he should die before his full age, the bequest to him should enure to the benefit of Sweney, the residuary legatee. A few days before the death of Wythe, a second codicil is dated; in this instrument the freed boy is mentioned as having “died this morning:”—all the devises to George Wythe Sweney are revoked, and the whole of the chancellor’s estate is left to the other grand children of his sister, the brothers and sisters of Sweney, to be equally divided between them.

“The sudden death of the negro boy; the revocation of the former devises; the suspicions of the community, fatally confirmed by the death of Wythe himself, all tend to the conclusion, that poison was introduced amongst the provisions of the household. The residuary legatee of the first will, submitted to a public trial on the charge of poisoning his uncle and the freed boy: an acquittal by a jury has caused a veil to be dropped over the transaction revolting to humanity; and the solemn decision of a criminal court has shown to the world, that although the lamented Wythe died by poison, yet legal certainty cannot be attached to his murderer.” pp. 177—179.

A very interesting memoir of judge Hopkinson follows the sketch of chancellor Wythe. No portion of the volumes before us has given us greater pleasure than this memoir. We wish that it may stimulate some patriotic bookseller to republish the humorous and satirical productions of judge Hopkinson: or rather may stimulate the patriotic public, to call for such a republication; the fault in these cases being, we own, unfairly laid at the door of the poor booksellers, who are willing to publish any thing which the community is willing to buy, and more perhaps cannot fairly be asked of them. Among the pieces of judge Hopkinson in question, is that most *spectatorial* disquisition on white washing, inferior to nothing in this strain since or by Addison.

The life of judge Paine concludes this number; and will be read with special interest, particularly by those in this quarter to whom his memory is still fresh. We lay before our

readers the following extract of a letter of Judge Paine's, written at the time that Congress moved to Baltimore, in December 1776, on the approach of the English to Philadelphia.

'Our public affairs have been exceedingly agitated since I wrote you last. The loss of fort Washington made way for that of fort Lee; and the dissolution of our army happening at the same time, threw us into a most disagreeable situation. \* \* But to work we went—the associations of the city were drawn forth, and about three thousand men, with some artillery, marched. The country associations were called upon; but there was no expectation of immediate relief from them. As the week advanced, we had repeated advices from General Washington of the unopposed approach of the enemy, headed by General Cornwallis. On Monday, we were informed that they had arrived at Brunswick, and that Washington was retreating to the west side of the Delaware. We sent many continental stores into the country, and great numbers of the people are moving. The shops have not been open since Sunday; and there was a real apprehension that we should be routed. I need not tell you what our calculations were on the expectation of losing this city. I had called in my accounts and prepared matters for a regular retreat: but on Thursday we found the enemy had not crossed the Brunswick river. By an officer of my acquaintance, who went with a flag to the enemy, to exchange a prisoner, we learned that they were about six thousand strong, and were surprised to find Newark and Elizabethtown evacuated by their inhabitants; that they knew the state of our army, which induced them to make the excursion. The enemy are in possession of a large part of New Jersey; and the remaining part is greatly distressed by their approach. But I hope this affair will rouse them from that lethargy which occasioned this excursion. Had their militia been alert and resolute, and given General Washington the support they might have done, these events had not happened; but carelessness and apathy have been the lords of our ascendants this last month. It is to no purpose, however, to scold. Let us carefully ascertain our past errors and amend them. Sunday, 8th; congress were called this morning, on advice, that General Howe had joined General Cornwallis with a large reinforcement, and was marching to Princeton. This measure induces us to think, that the expedition is against Philadelphia. Monday, 9th; Yesterday General Washington crossed the Delaware, and the enemy arrived at Trenton on the east side, thirty miles from this place. Close quarters for congress! It obliges us to move; we have resolved to go to Baltimore.' pp. 229—232.

In the notes to this number also, is found the following sportive correspondence, which may relieve the attention from the contemplation of the more weighty discussions connected with the Declaration of Independence.

‘In 1762, J. Sewall, the attorney general of the province, wrote his friend Paine as follows: viz. “Brother Bob, pray be so kind as to deliver the enclosed to a *Catchpole*, and when you can give me an opportunity to cancel the obligation, please to command me freely; your hearty friend,” &c.—“How is the harvest in your part of the vineyard? Which side do you take in the political controversy? What think you of coin? What of writs of assistance? What of his honor the Lieutenant Governor? What of Otis? What of Thacher? What of Coke, the cobbler? What think you of bedlam for political madmen? What think you of patriotism? What think you of disappointed ambition? What think you of the fable of the bees? What ——? Send me your thoughts on these questions, and I will send you fifty more.” Mr Paine’s reply, six days after the date of the above. “Friend Jonathan, I have just received yours, and shall take special care of the enclosed. Your queries demand an immediate answer, in which I hope you will find a satisfactory display of the orthodoxy of my mind. To first query, I answer, that the old account is reversed, for the harvest is small and the labourers many, and there are many little foxes that spoil the vines. To second query, I reply, the *right* side. To the third question I say, what hungry men do of food, if they can get any, never dispute the quality or the price. I reply to the fourth inquiry, never was more need of them; I shall soon apply for one to get me a *help-mect*. Question fifth: What of his honour the L. G.? I answer as the son of Sirach said, all things cannot be in vain, because man is not immortal—what is brighter than the sun? yet the light thereof faileth. What of Otis? Answer: What the *virtuosi* do of Lemory’s concave mirror, which *burns* every thing that cannot be melted. What of Thacher? Answer; as Jacob said of his son Dan, as a serpent in the way, he biteth the horse’s heels, so that his rider falleth backward. What of Coke, the cobbler? That he is dignified with a title which many others deserve more. What of bedlam for political madmen? It will by no means do, being already occupied by madmen of a more *sacred* profession. What of patriotism? As I do of the balance master’s art, very few have virtue enough, in the Roman sense, to keep themselves perpendicular. What of disappointed ambition? Consult your own mind, in having no reply to this question. What of the fable of the bees? It proves that good old word, The wrath of man shall praise the Lord. Last question, What ——? It

is the recapitulation of all the others. Thus I have gone through my catechism, and according to the good rule of education, the next step is to learn it with *proofs*; in which I shall hardly fail of success, if I keep to that standard. As for the fifty questions more, with which you threaten me, I beg when you execute it, you would observe a modern rule of answering them yourself as you go along. pp. 242, 243.

We remarked above, that we thought the plan of this work good. The declaration of Independence—a national monument, not more lasting than brass, but as durable in its effects and associations, as the republic itself and the name of freedom,—still deserves every illustration, which documents, tradition, or the arts can afford. Several enterprises of the kind, fac similes of the instrument, portraits of the members of the congress, &c. have lately appeared. Certainly nothing is more desirable than that these efforts should not be directed merely to a mechanical preservation of this paper, venerable as it is. The plan of adding the most interesting facts, in the lives of the signers to their names and portraits, seems to comprise every thing necessary to render this document satisfactory and precious to us and posterity. Something of the same kind has also been undertaken in England, and a perfect fac simile of Magna Charta in lithography has just been executed London. But this baronial declaration of Independence, venerable and valuable as it is to Americans and Englishmen, wants the greatness of ours. Those are proud words, *Nulli vendendam justitiam*, but they are spoken by a master; the ‘free, sovereign, and independent states’ was a formula to equalise the subservient and oppressed provinces with the haughty metropolitan empire. Every association connected with this event too seems more generous and exalted than those of Magna Charta. One, extorted by rude violence from a base and treacherous spirit, whose cowardice and weakness gave up, what he could neither understand nor value, the other uttered by virtuous and wise men, with the gravity of age and the ardor of youth. The captive prince strove only to secure his own worthless life, the American patriots were eager to expose theirs to defend what they asserted;—they were ‘the full of hope, mis-called forlorn.’ As one reads the Gothic characters of Magna Charta, some associations of darker and ruder ages unite themselves, with its promises of better and freer times, while the

generous and enlightened sentiments of the Declaration of Independence, soften the anticipations of danger and suffering which attended their utterance. We observe that these two numbers of this work are well executed in a mechanical point of view. There are some errors of the press, but on the whole, both the engraving and printing are handsome and creditable.

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ART. XIII.—*Yelverton's Reports. First American from the fourth English edition, with notes and references to prior and subsequent decisions, by Theron Metcalf.* Andover, Flagg & Gould, 1820, 8vo, pp. 228.

SIR HENRY YELVERTON was one of the most distinguished lawyers of his age. There are, however, but few traces of his life and character to be found. On the promotion of the great Bacon to the office of attorney general, in the eleventh year of James I. Yelverton was made solicitor general. He held this office seven years, when he was appointed attorney general, upon Bacon's being promoted to the office of lord keeper. In about four years, having incurred the displeasure of the king, he was removed from office, and sentenced in the star-chamber to be committed to the tower. The offence, with which he was charged, was the enlarging of a charter granted to the city of London, beyond the royal warrant. In 1621, whilst he was still imprisoned in the tower under this sentence, such was his popularity, that he was chosen to parliament by the burgesses of Northampton, but he was soon after accused by the commons of having drawn and supported patents for certain monopolies and of other misconduct, while he was the king's attorney. His articles of defence, which implicated the royal favorite, Buckingham, and even glanced at James himself, induced the king to repair to the house of lords, and require them to punish him for his alleged slander. The lords very complaisantly fined him ten thousand marks to the king, and five thousand marks to the duke. Now the truth was, that the persons, who had obtained these oppressive patents, shared the profits of their monopoly with sir Edward Villiers, the duke's brother; and yet that contemptible prince, his master, pretended to thank the commons for the information they had